

# Brethren Evangelist

"I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life."—Jesus

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## What Am I Doing?

It is well for us to ask this question sometimes. No more solemn injunction fell from the Master's lips than this: "Work while it is called day, for the night cometh in which no man can work." A glance at the spiritual activities on foot everywhere tells us that thousands are heeding this command with all their might. It is a very short period, this day of ours. What are we doing with it, and in it? A little work, maybe, we are doing for our own salvation, but this is not the broadest and best interpretation of duty. What are we doing for others? What are we doing for the building up of the church? Perhaps we yield to the usual discouragement that among so many we are but a lost cipher; but this is totally misleading. Granting that you are a cipher, nevertheless add one cipher to 1000 and you make it ten thousand. Isn't that a wonderful thing for a cipher to do? Do you know who has given more money than all the millionaires put together to the cause of Christ? We will tell you. It was the widow who cast in "two mites." "Because I cannot build a palace," said Doubt, "I will build nothing." His neighbor Faith built a humble cottage, but lo, when the morning dawned, it was a palace. There are wonderful transformations in the realm of grace. The little thing I do today, tomorrow outweighs a world. Suppose I point an obscure soul to Christ. But eternity dawns, and that soul is no longer obscure. None are obscure in the kingdom of glory. "What will it profit a man if he gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" It follows then that a single soul outweighs a world. Would we not regard it as a very glorious and distinguished action to capture some wandering world, and lay it at the feet of Christ? Beside such a conqueror where would the heroes of the world stand? What would happen if all who name the name of Christ would only watch and pray for opportunities to work for the Master? It would take all the columns of the EVANGELIST to record the weekly progress of the church. "Why stand ye all the day idle?" Certainly it is not because "no man hath hired us." It is because there are so many who said to the Master, "I go, sir, but afterwards went not."

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## Revivals

We are approaching the season of frequent revivals, and perhaps it may be well to study the subject a little so that we may have some intelligent understanding of it. We want a revival to be sure, but what is a revival? Revival is from the word revive, which means, to bring again to life. The word implies therefore that the subject is dead, or at least in a state of suspended animation. As applied to the churches, let us take the most charitable construction, and call it a case of suspended animation. It becomes evident then that the primal object in view is, not to convert sinners, but to restore an inert church to a normal condition of life. Here we have this body of supposed believers in Christ, and candidates for eternal life and immortal glory, so inanimate, so fast asleep, that we use by common consent the term Revival, indicating that something akin to a resurrection is needed to reanimate them, and restore the semblance of living creatures. Now it is taken for granted that the same spiritual energy which reanimates this inert mass, which rouses this stupor of the church, will extend its potency beyond the borders of the baptized assembly, and convert the sinners on the outskirts. It takes the character of a special effort, when Brother Indifferent, and Brother Worldly, and Sister Gossip, with all their kith and kin, assume an attitude of godly zeal and pious ejaculation for at least a week, sometimes for as much as two weeks, or even three, accompanied with a sudden interest in the salvation of sinners, particularly those who do not know them very intimately. Now there is no argument or implication in all this against special efforts, but we want to make the point that the religion which truly converts sinners, and which is thus honored by the seal of Christ's approval and presence, is not like the flame which a bellows blows up, only to die down as soon as the wind ceases, but like the steady shining of a star, the same yesterday, today and tomorrow, in the patient and beautiful perseverance of its reflected light,—the light which the Creator gave it in the beginning to shine withal. Sorely beset men and women, wandering in the darkness of this world, will come to the light, but the temporary glow of an adventitious revival is not "that light," but merely the flash which only serves to emphasize the prevailing darkness.